

FOREWORD:

FOREWORD FROM THE NEW EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Professor Derek R. Smith

BSc, BEd, MHSc, MPH, MSc (TMSc), PhD, DrMedSc, FACTM, FRSPH, FSIA, CPE.
Faculty of Health, University of Newcastle, Ourimbah, Australia; and Anton Breinl Centre for Public Health and Tropical Medicine, James Cook University, Townsville, Australia

I am honoured to contribute to my first editorial as Editor-in-Chief of the Annals of the Australasian College of Tropical Medicine (AACTM). As some readers and College members will know, I currently occupy a combined position as Director of a Research Centre and as a Professor at the University of Newcastle, having recently returned from almost 10 years living and working overseas. I have many years experience working on the editorial board of various international journals, and I look forward to bringing onboard these skills for the benefit of our periodical. Like everyone at the Australasian College of Tropical Medicine, I would like to extend my profound gratitude to Emeritus Professor John Goldsmid and Professor Peter Leggat for their tireless dedication in developing the Annals from its early days as a collection of occasional papers, into the respected academic periodical that it now is.

As new Editor-in-Chief I look forward to serving our journal during its further expansion over the next few years, based on the solid foundation already laid by my esteemed predecessors. I am also delighted to announce that the Annals will be retaining two familiar faces in the executive editorial board. Former Editor, Emeritus Professor John Goldsmid, will be taking up the role of Emeritus Editor-in-Chief and former ACTM President Professor Peter Leggat will be the Executive Editor of the Annals from this issue onwards.

FOREWORD FROM THE EMERITUS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Emeritus Professor John M. Goldsmid

MSc, PhD, FRCPath, FASM, FACTM, CBiol, FIBiol, FAIBiol, Hon FACTM, Hon FRCPA.
Discipline of Pathology, University of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia

During the early years of the ACTM a number of occasional papers were published as Volumes 1 and 2 of the Annals of the ACTM. In 2002, Council took the decision to publish Vol 3 and to extend the Annals into a regular journal for the College - initially to be produced once a year. Finances were limited but we were soon able to extend the Annals to two a year, published in June and December. It is always a challenge to produce a new journal and it takes some time to become established and become recognized for Medline listing. It is often difficult to get papers for publication at this early stage in the development of any journal - most people tending to opt to publish papers in already established journals for obvious reasons. However, we were able to publish a series of significant papers and in 2007 it was decided to improve the format of the Annals and to give it a more professional appearance - an essential move if it was to gain recognition and Medline listing. Here it is fitting that we gratefully acknowledge the role played by the Honorary Treasurer of the College, the late Dr Robert Hirst. It has been with his encouragement that what progress we have been able to make has been achieved!

I believe we have now got within sight of achieving Medline listing status and I am sure that under the enthusiastic guidance of the new Editor-in-Chief, this can be achieved. However, it is up to you, the members of ACTM to help us achieve this goal. A journal is only as good as the papers it publishes. We have within the College a wealth of talent and expertise. Derek has great new ideas for the future - be part of it!

FOREWORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE EDITOR AND ACTM PRESIDENT

Professor Peter A. Leggat

MD, PhD, DrPH, FAFPHM, FACTM, FTTM ACTM, FTTM RCPSG, FACRRM, FSIA.
Anton Breinl Centre for Public Health and Tropical Medicine, James Cook University, Townsville, Australia, and Faculty of Health, University of Newcastle, Ourimbah, Australia

I wish to welcome the new Editor-in-Chief of the Annals of the ACTM and it is with great pleasure that I accept the role of Inaugural Executive Editor of the Annals. I believe there are some exciting times ahead for the Annals of the ACTM following its humble beginnings nearly 10 volumes ago with the production of the first Volume of the Annals, a monograph which I edited in 1995 documenting the Inaugural Ashdown Oration and Convocation.¹ The Annals has now moved firmly into the realms of a journal publication, which encompasses the broader missions of the College in the core areas of tropical and travel medicine, but also in the emerging areas of disaster health, medical parasitology and zoonoses, and toxinology, which are currently represented by Standing Committees of the College. In 2002, the Annals took shape under the distinguished leadership of Professor John Goldsmid as an A4-sized journal with an upgrade in 2007 to its current format.

Executive Editors together with the Editor-in-Chief will generally be responsible for the final content of the publication as well as undertaking the initial editorial screening of submissions and assisting the Editorial Advisory Board and Associate Editors in the evaluation of reviewers' recommendations for publication in the Annals. Executive Editors will advise the Editor-in-Chief on publication standards and budget as well as strategic and operational planning of the Annals. It is also expected that as further Executive Editors are appointed these positions may be responsible for special projects, such as supplements and special issues, as well as managing journal departments, usually by publication type or by region. In this sense, the appointment of Executive Editors is an exciting one for the Annals, as we seek to give more responsibility for and ownership of our journal to our members. Together with the Editor-in-Chief, we will continue to work towards ensuring we meet the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals.²

IN THIS ISSUE OF THE ANNALS

The current issue is divided into three components, with the first being an editorial titled: Towards Greater International Exposure for the Annals of the Australasian College of Tropical Medicine.³ The second part comprises Professor John Pearn's 2008 Copeman Oration for the Australasian College of Tropical Medicine, titled: Lines in the Sand: Research, Bioethics and the Reduction of Mortality in the Developing World.⁴ The final part contains selected conference abstracts from the 17th Annual Scientific Meeting of the ACTM / Asia-Pacific International Conference on Travel Medicine (APICTM) which was held on 24-27 February 2008 at the Crown Promenade Hotel in Melbourne. We trust that this issue of the Annals is both interesting and informative for readers.

References

- 1 Leggat PA. The Inaugural Ashdown Oration and Convocation. *Ann Aust Coll Trop Med* 1995; 1: 1-61.
- 2 International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals: Writing and editing for biomedical publication. Available online at: <<http://www.icmje.org>> Accessed: 21 May 2008.
- 3 Smith DR, Leggat PA, Goldsmid JM. Towards greater international exposure for the Annals of the Australasian College of Tropical Medicine. *Ann Aust Coll Trop Med* 2008; 9: 2-3
- 4 Pearn JH. Lines in the sand: Research, bioethics and the reduction of mortality in the developing world. *Ann Aust Coll Trop Med* 2008; 9: 3-5